

**CONFIDENTIAL**COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) **REPORT**TOPIC Soviet Troop Movements in the Dessau-Rosslau AreaEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                     DATE PREPARED 31 May 1951REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                     

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1. At noon of 6 May 1951, a large number of troops from the barracks installation in Rosslau started moving toward Dessau (N 52/E 17).                      the Dessau-Aken (N 52/D 96) road where                      engineer units                      assembling in the woods on either side of the road. Units, which were seen unloading at the Dessau freight yard, joined the engineer units assembling by the Dessau-Aken road. While the unloading operations at the Dessau freight yard were still going on, as many as 500 vehicles were concentrated in the above-mentioned woods on the evening of 7 May.
2. Numerous motor vehicles loaded with troops, bridge-building equipment, pontoons, and motorboats were observed in Rosslau between 2 and 9 p.m. on 6 May.
3. During the same period, artillery troops with not less than 15 caterpillar tractors and as many guns of from 120-mm to 150-mm were unloaded at the Dessau freight yard. Ammunition was unloaded onto trucks from 10 boxcars.

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4. Motor vehicles which were seen at the assembly point between Kuehnau (N 52/E 07) and Aken on the evening of 6 May included trucks [redacted], 50X1-HUM

[redacted] loaded with bridge building equipment; truck [redacted] loaded with a pontoon; trucks [redacted] with hoisting gear; and an undetermined number of unlabeled special vehicles loaded with motorboats of various sizes. A unit with rocket launchers and four guns of from 120-mm to 150-mm with double pneumatic wheels and muzzle brakes was also observed at the assembly point. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

5. In the afternoon of 7 May, 3 artillery pieces, apparently 37-mm AA guns, and 3 other artillery pieces, apparently 76.2-mm AA guns, were unloaded at the Dessau freight yard. The guns were hauled off by motor vehicles [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] 15 motor vehicles had not yet been unloaded from this train, and several other troop trains were still being shunted.

6. Early on 21 April, several convoys, totaling about 300 vehicles, were seen moving from the direction of Dessau toward the barracks installation at Meinsdorf. The vehicles included trucks loaded with troops and billeting equipment, radio trucks, repair shop trucks and kitchen trucks. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] About 30 of them towed 20-mm AA guns and 120-mm mortars. [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] jeep [redacted] sedan [redacted] occupied by field-grade officers with engineer insignia [redacted] About 600 troops marching in four columns were also seen coming from the direction of Dessau and going toward the barracks installation at Meinsdorf. [redacted] the 50X1-HUM

troops returned to their quarters. \*

7. The engineer unit, which had not held field training during the previous weeks, left Rossau toward Dessau in several small convoys between noon of 6 May and the early night hours of 7 May. There were about 150 vehicles, belonging to the unit, which were seen leaving on 6 May. They [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] were loaded primarily with over-hauled engineer equipment, pontoons, and eight motorboats. The convoys included command cars, radio trucks, repair shop trucks, and amphibious cars. About 55 vehicles [redacted] passed through Rossau toward Dessau on 7 May. Most of them were loaded with boats. They included trucks [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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8. Another convoy of 50 to 60 motor vehicles, including about 25 large amphibious cars, was seen moving toward Dessau in the afternoon of 7 May. Although capable of seating 40 to 50 men each, the amphibious cars were occupied by only about 25 soldiers each. They were about as long as a motorboat and about four meters wide. Several vehicles of the convoy carried small engineer equipment [redacted] 50X1-HUM

9. Twenty-two empty trucks [redacted] returned from the direction of Dessau on the evening of 7 May and departed toward Dessau early on 8 May, loaded with pontoons. There were several small convoys of vehicles with engineer equipment [redacted] 50X1-HUM

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\* Comment.

the troops who returned to the Pionier Schule, Dessau-Rosslau, on 21 April 1951 were components of the 7th Gds Tank Div. Some of the vehicles, loaded with billeting equipment, were also observed driving toward the Rosslau barracks installation on 21 April 1951.

. Since these two reports expressly state that the units of the 7th Gds Tank Div were returning to their barracks installation, these troops were probably not among those components of the division which were reported to have moved to Letzing Heath at the same time.

\*\* Comment. The information indicates that a large-scale engineer exercise, probably a river-crossing, began in the Dessau-Alten area on 6 May and was still going on on 7 May 1951. Units which

participated in the exercise were the 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GORC from the Pionier Schule in Dessau-Rosslau; headquarters artillery and AAA units of the Eighth Gds Army; elements of the 21st Gds Mecc Div from Halle-Merseburg; and unidentified units from Naumburg and Halle. Troops of the 21st Gds Mecc Div in strength of about one tank regiment and one mechanized regiment,

have left Halle in a northerly direction on 4 May 1951, may have participated in the engineer exercise rather than going to the Kindel troop training grounds, as was tentatively assumed at first.

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